United Nations A/54/949–S/2000/746

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
28 July 2000

Original: English

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Letter dated 26 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour, in my capacity as Chairman of the Islamic Group at the United Nations, to transmit herewith the text of the final communiqué adopted at the twenty-seventy session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Kuala Lumpur from 24 to 27 Rabiul Awal 1421 H (27-30 June 2000) (see annex).*

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 10, 29, 34, 35, 37, 38, 42, 43, 44, 46, 49, 50, 53, 54, 56, 62, 63, 72, 76, 79, 85, 88, 89, 91, 98, 100, 101, 104, 105, 107, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 116, 117, 159 and 161, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Hasmy **Agam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* The annex is being circulated in the languages of submission only.

Annex to the letter dated 26 July from the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic, English and French]

FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS *(SESSION OF ISLAM AND GLOBALIZATION)* KUALA LUMPUR – MALAYSIA 24 TO 27 RABI'UL AWAL 1421H 27 TO 30 JUNE, 2000

1. In response to the kind invitation by the Government of Malaysia, the Twenty-seventh Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Islam and Globalization) was convened in the city of Kuala Lumpur – capital of Malaysia – from 24 to 27 Rabi'ul Awal 1421H, (27 to 30 June 2000).

2 a) ***The Conference was attended by the following Member States:***

- *Republic of Azerbaijan*
- *Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan*
- *Republic of Albania*
- *State of United Arab Emirates*
- *Republic of Indonesia*
- *Republic of Uzbekistan*
- *Republic of Uganda*
- *Islamic Republic of Pakistan*
- *Islamic Republic of Iran*
- *State of Bahrain*
- *Brunei Darussalam*
- *People's Republic of Bangladesh*
- *Burkina Faso*
- *Republic of Tajikistan*
- *Republic of Turkey*
- *Turkmenistan*
- *Republic of Chad*
- *Republic of Togo*
- *Republic of Tunisia*
- *People's Democratic Republic of Algeria*
- *Republic of Djibouti*
- *Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*
- *Republic of Senegal*

- *Republic of Sudan*
- *Syrian Arab Republic*
- *Republic of Surinam*
- *Republic of Sierra Leone*
- *Republic of Iraq*
- *Sultanate of Oman*
- *Republic of Gabon*
- *Republic of the Gambia*
- *Republic of Guyana*
- *Republic of Guinea*
- *Republic of Guinea-Bissau*
- *State of Palestine*
- *Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros*
- *State of Qatar*
- *Republic of Kyrgyz*
- *Republic of Cameroon*
- *State of Kuwait*
- *Republic of Lebanon*
- *Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya*
- *Republic of Maldives*
- *Republic of Mali*
- *Malaysia*
- *Arab Republic of Egypt*
- *Kingdom of Morocco*
- *Islamic Republic of Mauritania*
- *Republic of Mozambique*
- *Republic of Niger*
- *Federal Republic of Nigeria*
- *Republic of Yemen*

(b) **Also attended as observers :**

States

- *Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina*
- *Central African Republic*
- *Republic of Cote d'Ivoire*

- *Kingdom of Thailand*

Muslim Communities

- *Turkish Muslim Community of Cyprus*
- *Moro National Liberation Front*

International And Regional Organisations

- *United Nations*
- *Non-Aligned Movement*
- *League of Arab States*
- *Organization of African Unity*
- *Economic Co-operation Organization*

(c) **The following Subsidiary Organs also attended the Conference:**

- *Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries, Ankara*
- *Research Centre on Islamic History, Art and Culture, Istanbul*
- *Islamic Institute of Technology (IIT), Dhaka*
- *Islamic Centre for Development of Trade, Casablanca*
- *Islamic Fiqh Academy, Jeddah*
- *International Commission for the Preservation of the Islamic Cultural Heritage, Istanbul*
- *Islamic Solidarity Fund, Jeddah*
- *Islamic University of Niger, Niamey*
- *Islamic University of Uganda, Kampala*

(d) **The following specialized institutions of the OIC also attended the Conference:**

- *Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Jeddah*
- *Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO), Rabat*
- *International Islamic News Agency (IINA)*

e) **The following affiliated institutions of the OIC also attended the Conference:**

- *Sports Federation of Islamic Solidarity Games, Riyadh*
- *Organisation of the Islamic Capitals and Cities, Makkah Al-Mukarramah*

- *Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Karachi*
- *Islamic Shipowners Association, Jeddah*
- *World Federation of Islamic International Schools, Riyadh*
- *Islamic Committee of the International Crescent, Banghazi*

(f) **The following also attended the Conference:**

- *The Bait Mal Al-Quds Agency*

(g) **Islamic Foundations and Societies:**

- *Muslim World League, Makkah Al-Mukarramah*
- *World Islamic Call Society, Tripoli*
- *World Muslim Congress, Karachi*
- *International Islamic Charitable Foundation, Kuwait*
- *Islamic Council of Europe, London.*

(h) **Guests :**

- *Republic of Croatia*
- *Republic of Macedonia*
- *Arab Maghrib Union*
- *U.N. High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)*
- *U.N. Education, Science and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)*
- *U.N. Committee for the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People*
- *Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS)*
- *International Islamic University of Malaysia*
- *United Kingdom Action Committee for Islamic Affairs*
- *International Islamic Relief Organization*
- *International Committee of the Red Cross*
- *True Representatives of the Kashmiri People*
- *Hashemite Jordanian Charity Organization*
- *Women's Solidarity Association of the Islamic Republic of Iran*
- *Islamic Countries Women Sports Solidarity Council*
- *Organization for Security and cooperation in Europe*

3. His Excellency Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia opened the Twenty-seventh Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers. In his statement, he highlighted issues of paramount importance for

the future of Muslim countries. He enumerated the eras of Islamic history and civilization embodied by the precepts of the Quran, the sunna of the Holy Prophet and sound conventional principles. He also highlighted the errors of Muslims in past decades which led to their current under-development and regression compared to their achievements in terms of cultural, scientific and philosophical advancement of yore. His Excellency Prime Minister of Malaysia expressed the hope that the ICFM will recognise the dangers and the challenges posed by globalization, and recognising them, take the necessary first step towards reducing the divisions between Muslim countries and focusing their attention on the acquisition of knowledge to combat the use of Information Technology to destroy the values, faith and the legacy of their civilization.

4. The participants stood for a minute of silence to pray for the soul of H.E. Hafez Al Assad, the late president of the Syrian Arab Republic, who passed away on 10th June 2000. The Conference then commended him for his firm positions in defending Arab and Muslim causes as well as for his wise leadership of his country and for achieving stability, security and development for the Syrian people.

5. The participants decided to consider the address by His Excellency, the Malaysian Prime Minister as an orientation document for the Conference.

6. Addresses were then given by Their Excellencies Cheikh Tidjana Gadio, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Senegal, Mr. Yusuf Ibn Abdallah Ibn Alawi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman and Mr. Abdul Sattar Aziz, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on behalf of the African, Arab and Asian Groups respectively. They conveyed their profound thanks to the Government and People of Malaysia for their warm welcome and generous hospitality, and the excellent organization provided to ensure the success of the proceedings of the Conference. They commended His Excellency Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir for the skill and courage in taking initiatives and for his far-sightedness in his leadership of Malaysia which has made it a model of good governance and development and a source of pride for the Islamic States.

7. His Excellency Youssouf Ouderaogo, Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Burkina Faso, Chairman of the Twenty-sixth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers delivered a speech in which he reported on the different activities carried out by the organization in pursuance of the decisions of the Twenty-sixth Session of the ICFM in the political, economic and cultural domains. His Excellency also made an objective assessment of the needs of the Organization and its General Secretariat in terms of financial resources and necessary working means. He commended the praiseworthy efforts made by His Excellency Dr. Azeddine Laraki, the Secretary General of the OIC for the development of the OIC and for consolidating its credibility. He also expressed his trust in the chair of the current session of the Conference and in its ability to press ahead with the process of reform and follow up the decisions of the Conference.

8. In his address which took the form of a general report on the major activities of the Organizations in the period elapsed between the previous and the current

sessions of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, His Excellency Dr. Azeddine Laraki, the Secretary General of the OIC, stressed the prime cause of the Arabs and Muslims, the cause of Palestine and Al-Quds Al-Sharif as well as the great victory achieved by Lebanon in recovering large portions of its territory which were occupied by Israel, and which he considered as a precursor of the defeat of Israeli occupation in all other Arab territories in Al-Quds Al-Sharif, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, and the Syrian Golan. The Secretary General also reported on the initiatives taken recently by the Organization with respect to the conflict in Afghanistan, the situation in the Balkans and Chechnya, the consequences of the so-called second Gulf War, the escalation witnessed in the conflict of Jammu and Kashmir, in addition to the economic conditions in Africa and some regional conflicts experienced by this Continent. The Secretary General highlighted the importance accorded by the Organization to the issues of economic development and ways of promoting intra-trade trade and investment in Member states. He also tackled the conditions of the Muslim communities and minorities in non-Member states, stressing the importance of implementing the cultural strategy of the Islamic world and the active and effective participation of the Organization in the dialogue between civilizations. The Secretary General enumerated the measures of reform which he took and which, as it is attested by the different governmental bodies affiliated to the Organization, resulted in the rationalization of expenditure, the full respect of the administrative and financial rules and regulations and the achievement of savings in some items of the budget, which had a highly positive impact and increased member states confidence in the General Secretariat. He called on Member states to meet their financial commitments towards the General Secretariat and to its subsidiary organs.

9. The Conference afterwards unanimously elected His Excellency Datuk Seri Hamid Al-Bar, the Foreign Minister of Malaysia as Chairman of the Twenty-seventh Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers. His Excellency delivered an address in which he highlighted the importance of the Islamic Organization for the consolidation of relations between Islamic states and for the pursuit of common positions vis-à-vis a number of regional and international issues. His Excellency proposed to undertake a critical assessment of the Organization with a view to enhancing its role in meeting the Islamic Ummah's requirements by overcoming the shortcomings of the General Secretariat due to its limited resources, and reconsidering the programme of action of the ICFM, in order to allow for a constructive dialogue at ministerial level over the basic issues which preoccupy the Islamic states. In this respect, His Excellency commended the idea of having an independent consultant undertake a modern and comprehensive study on the General Secretariat with a view to increasing its effectiveness, in addition to the possibility of reconsidering some provisions of the Organization's Charter with the purpose of modernizing its regulations and procedures, considering that these initiatives were necessary priorities to enable the Organization to keep up with modern developments

10. The Conference unanimously elected the other members of its bureau as follows: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Federal Republic of Nigeria, State of Palestine as Vice-Chairmen, and Burkina Faso as Rapporteur of the Conference.

11. Before the closing of the plenary session, the representatives of the UN Secretary General the President of the Non-Aligned Movement, the OAU Secretary General and of the League of Arab States took the floor successively, who commended the progress of cooperation between the OIC and their respective organization relating issues of community concern, as well as the role performed by His Excellency Dr. Azeddine Laraki in this field.

12. The Conference decided that the motto of the present session would be: "Islam and Globalization".

13. The Conference approved the report of the Preparatory Meeting of the Senior Officials for the current session and which was held in Jeddah between 23 and 26 Safar, 1421 H, corresponding to the period between 27 and 30 May, 2000.

14. The Conference adopted the draft agenda and draft programme of work prepared by the Meeting of Senior Officials. The Conference divided its work between the Plenary Session and four committees: the Political Affairs Committee, the Economic and Social Affairs Committee, the Cultural and Islamic Affairs Committee and the Administrative and Financial Affairs Committee. Meetings of the following committees formed by the Organization were also held on the course of the Conference: the Committee of Six on the situation of the Muslim community in the Southern Philippines, the Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir.

15. The Conference and its committees considered with appreciation the reports prepared by the Secretary General on several issues submitted to this session, in which he provided background information on the major events and developments that these question witnessed during the period between the Twenty-sixth and Twenty-seventh Sessions.

16. In the light of the pertinent interventions made by Their Excellencies the Ministers and Heads of delegations and the constructive discussions which took place at both plenary and committee levels, the Conference adopted several resolutions aimed at consolidating Islamic solidarity, preparing the Ummah to face the challenges of the present time, achieving welfare for Islamic societies and protecting Islamic religious and cultural fundamentals.

ORGANIC, STATUTORY AND GENERAL MATTERS:

17. The Conference unanimously elected ***His Excellency Dr.Abdelouahed BELKEZIZ of Morocco, as Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference,*** for the Arab Group for a mandate of four years, as of January 1st, 2001, before the tenure moves to the Asian Group.

18. The Conference decided that the tenure of the Secretary General currently stipulated in the OIC Charter shall apply to the tenures of the Assistant Secretaries General, and that the first tenure of the current Assistant Secretaries General shall be counted if reelected. The Conference emphasized that the Director of Coordination with Palestine, enjoying the status and privileges of the

Assistant Secretary General, shall be nominated by the State of Palestine and designated by the Secretary General.

19. The Conference elected *His Excellency Ambassador Sayed Qasim Ali Masri from Egypt as Assistant Secretary General from 30 June, 2000 to 30 June, 2001*, to complete the period remaining from the mandate of His Excellency Ambassador Ibrahim Auf, former Assistant Secretary General for the Arab Group, who has been appointed Secretary General of the Parliamentary Union of OIC Member States.

20. The Conference elected the Assistant Secretaries General whose tenures shall start as of 1 July, 2001, as follows:

- *H.E. Izzet Kamel Mufti from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for a first tenure;*
- *H.E. Ambassador Nabika Diallo for the African Group for a second tenure;*
- *H.E. Ambassador Ahmed Ali Al Gazali for the Arab Group for a first tenure.*

As for the Asian Group, the election of its representative has been postponed to a forthcoming meeting.

21. The Conference took note of the candidacies submitted by Turkey, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Bangladesh and Indonesia for the membership of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.

22. The Conference commended the praiseworthy efforts made by the Secretary General in the recent period which have led to enhance cooperative relations between the OIC and the United Nations and its various components, the League of Arab States, the Non-Aligned Movement, OAU the GCC, and which have helped develop the appropriate framework for communication and the dialogue with the European Union and other regional and sub-regional organizations such as the OECD and the OSCE, thus strengthening the position of the OIC as a serious partner on which the international community can rely upon in the common search for solutions to world problems such as those relating to international peace and security, preventive diplomacy, disarmament, human rights and dialogue among civilizations.

23. The Conference called on OIC Member States to effectively participate in the Millennium Summit of the United Nations due to be held in new York from 6 to 8 September, 2000, coordinate their positions and incorporate the recommendations of this Conference into the final results of the Millennium Summit.

24. The Conference welcomed the initiative taken by the Republic of Mali to host the Twenty-eighth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, it being understood that the date of this session will be set in consultation between the parties concerned and the General Secretariat.

25. The Conference welcomed with great satisfaction and expressed its deep appreciation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its pledged donation of ten million US Dollars to support the OIC and its various activities.

POLITICAL AFFAIRS:

The Question of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, Palestine and the Arab Israeli Conflict.

26. The Conference issued the Appeal of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, attached to this Communique.

27. The Conference reaffirmed that the question of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and Palestine is the foremost Islamic cause. It expressed its full solidarity with the Palestine Liberation Organization in its just struggle to end Israeli occupation, ensure the return of the Palestinian people to their homeland Palestine and enable them to exercise their full sovereignty, build their national institutions on national soil, Palestine, and regain their inalienable national rights, including the right of return, the right to self-determination and the right to establish their own independent State on national soil, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

28. The Conference called on Member States to continue to consolidate their solidarity with the Palestinian people, support their just and legitimate struggle to end Israeli occupation and achieve all their objectives of freedom and independence.

29. The Conference affirmed its support for the peace process in the Middle East and the implementation of all the agreements, commitments and pledges concluded through that process between the concerned parties in accordance with the principles up on which the Madrid Peace Conference was based pursuant to the UN Charter and resolutions, in particular UN Security Council resolutions 242, 338 and 425, and the land-for-peace principle, all of which provide for Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, including the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967, and the occupied Lebanese territories to the internationally recognized borders.

30. The Conference emphasized that Al-Quds Al-Sharif forms an integral part of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967 and whatever applies to the rest of the occupied territories also applies to it, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly. The Conference called on the international community to put an end to all measures and practices of the Israeli occupation authorities in the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif aimed at altering its geographic and demographic set up, desecrating holy Islamic and Christian places with a view of judaizing them. The Conference called for combined efforts to restore the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif to Palestinian sovereignty as capital of the State of Palestine.

31. The Conference also called on the international community, particularly the co-sponsors of the peace process, to exert pressure on Israel to comply with the resolutions of international legality and to implement the relevant resolutions of the UN General Assembly including Resolution ES 10/6 of 25 February 1999 which called for ending construction of the new settlement in Jabal Abu Ghuneim and any other settlement activity, including the extension of existing settlements, the construction of roads of containment, the expropriation of lands

near the settlements and all other activities which constitute a violation of international resolutions. The Conference called on member States to make every effort to bring the UN General Assembly to take the necessary measures pursuant to the "United for Peace" resolution should Israel fail to comply with those resolutions.

32. The Conference requested the UN Security Council to revive the International Committee on Supervision and Control to prevent colonization in the city of Al-Quds and other occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, pursuant to resolution 446, and called for continued efforts and contacts at world level to ensure the implementation of the resolutions of international legality, in particular UN Security Council resolution 465 (1980) which considered the settlements as illegal and requested the dismantlement of existing settlements.

33. The Conference urged the international community and all states that provide economic and financial assistance for Israel, in particular the United States of America and the European Union States, as well as international donor institutions and funds, to stop their assistance which Israel uses to carry out its colonialist settlement schemes in the occupied Arab territories, in occupied Palestine and the occupied Syrian Golan, and to boycott the products and goods of such settlements in the occupied territories, in pursuance of the resolutions of international legality considering that these products and goods originate from illegal settlements.

34. The Conference underlined that Israel's violation of the principles and underpinnings of the peace process, reneging on the commitments, pledges and agreements concluded within this process, and procrastination and evasion at implementation level, have seriously undermined the peace process. The Conference held the Israeli Government wholly responsible for this state of affairs.

35. The Conference called for continued efforts to ensure the implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and the UN resolutions pertaining to the return of the displaced, particularly resolution 237 of 1976.

36. The Conference called on the United Nations to send a "Fact-finding Mission" to investigate the status of Palestinian lands and possessions, their uses and revenues, and the violations of their ownership and utilization rights to obtain full copies of all land and property registers, documents and maps held by the Israeli administration; to make every effort to ensure the implementation of UN General Assembly resolution 43/57 of 6 December 1988 on the proceeds of Palestinian refugees' possessions, which provide that "the (Secretary General) should take appropriate steps, in consultation with the UN Conciliation Committee on Palestine, to protect and administer Arab possessions, landed property and other assets as well as Arab ownership rights in Israel; and to institute a fund for collecting revenues on behalf of their owners". The Conference also called on the United Nations to appoint a permanent trustee for such properties, who shall report periodically to the United Nations on the status of the properties and ensure their protection until the return of their owners.

37. The Conference called on all states in the world to recognize the State of Palestine upon its proclamation in the Palestinian territories and provide the Palestinian people with all forms of assistance so they can exercise their sovereignty on their soil in accordance with the resolutions of international legality. The Conference also urged all states to extend their support to the State of Palestine to enable it to gain full membership in the United Nations, and take part in the Millennium Meeting of World Leaders due to be held at the United Nations headquarters in New York from 6 to 8 September 2000.

38. The Conference called on Islamic States which had taken steps towards establishing relations with Israel within the framework of the peace process, to reconsider such relations including the closure of missions and offices until Israel complies with UN resolutions, implements the commitments, pledges and agreements it concluded with the parties concerned with the peace process, in accordance with the principles of the Madrid Conference, the Oslo Agreement, the other agreements concluded with the Palestine Liberation Organization, and the pledges and commitments reached with Arab parties during the peace talks on all other tracks.

39. The Conference called for action by the United Nations and other international organizations and forums to force Israel to release the detainees, return the deportees, put an end to collective punishments, to the confiscation of land and property and to the demolition of houses, and refrain from any act likely to endanger life and the environment in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories including Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

40. The Conference called for a more effective participation of the United Nations in ensuring the success of the peace process in the Middle East and reaffirmed the established and continued and responsibility of the United Nations toward the Palestinian question until a just and comprehensive solution of all its aspects is reached.

41. The Conference also urged all concerned states and parties to support the international programme or economic, social and cultural development in the Palestinian territories; provide the approved assistance to enable the Palestinian people build their national economy; extend support to their national institutions and enable the Palestinians to establish their independent state with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

42. The Conference called on the International Community and the Security Council to force Israel to comply with UN resolutions, particularly Security Council Resolution 487(1981), to accede to the treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and implement the resolutions of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

43. The Conference affirmed the continuous responsibility of UNRWA to carry out its mission in favour of all Palestinians wherever they may be, called on the Conciliation Committee to cooperate with UNRWA and the concerned states in organizing an exhaustive census of Palestinian refugees and their properties, and to formulate a comprehensive conception for resolving their problems on the

basis of their rights to return to their homeland Palestine, pursuant to UN Resolution 194. The Conference also invited all states to extend further support to the agency to enable it to finance its budget and continues to provide the services assigned to it.

44. The Conference commended the remarkable efforts made by the Al-Quds Committee under the Chairmanship of His Majesty the late Hassan II of Morocco and continuation of its mission in the service of the cause of Al-Quds Al-Sharif under the Chairmanship of His Majesty Mohammed VI, the Sovereign of Kingdom of Morocco. The conference affirmed all the decisions made at the meetings of this Committee, in particular its Seventh Session held in Casablanca on 4-5 Rabii II, 1419 H (29-30 July 1999), and urged OIC Member States to act accordingly.

45. The Conference called on Member States, Islamic financing institutions, banks, funds, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Companies, individuals and businessmen to extend generous assistance to "Bait-Mal Al-Quds" and to the Al Quds Fund, and to organize fund-raising campaigns on the popular level in favour of the Agency and the Fund to enable them to implement the projects adopted in support of the resistance of the Palestinian people in the Holy City.

46. The Conference welcomed the basic agreement concluded between the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Vatican on 15 February 2000 and which considers that any unilateral decision or action such as altering the distinctive character of Al-Quds and its legal status is morally and legally unacceptable.

47. The Conference condemned Israel's initiative to hold the sixty-sixth meeting of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) in the year 2000, in the occupied city of Al-Quds, in total contravention with the resolutions of international legality on the city of Al-Quds. The Conference called on library organizations, institutions and associations to boycott that meeting and to participate in the Conference of Library organizations institutions and associations due to be held in Cairo on 12 August 2000. It also called for boycott of the annual symposium of the International Archives Council scheduled for 2001 also in Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

48. The Conference expressed its thanks to His Highness Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President of the State of the United Arab Emirates, for his generous donation towards financing the documentary film on Al-Quds which has recently been completed, and invited Member States to ensure the projection of this film through their mass media.

49. The Conference lauded the steadfastness of the Syrian Arab citizens of the Golan against occupation and strongly condemned Israel's non-compliance with UN Security Council resolution 497 (1981). It affirmed that Israel's decision to impose its laws and rule on the occupied Syrian Golan is illegal, null and void, and totally illegitimate. The Conference condemned Israel for continuing to alter the legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan and its demographic and institutional structure. It reaffirmed the applicability of the 1949 Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilian in Time of War to the occupied Syrian

Golan. The Conference also condemned Israel's repeated threats directed against Syrian, aimed at aggravating tension in the region and wrecking the peace process. It called for Israel total withdrawal from all the occupied Syrian Golan to the 4 June 1967 lines.

50. The Conference strongly condemned Israel for its continuing occupation of expanses of land inside the internationally recognised Lebanese borders, including the Shebaa Farms, in contravention to the provision of UN Security Council Resolution 425.

51. The Conference affirmed Lebanon's right to recover every inch of its occupied territory and the right of the Lebanese people to resist Israel occupation by every available means until the complete liberation of Lebanese territories including the Shebaa Farms.

52. The Conference requested the international community to take all necessary measures to compel Israel to set free all the Lebanese prisoners, kidnapped nationals who have been detained as hostages in Israeli prisons, in contravention of the provision of international law, the universal declaration of human rights, the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention and the 1907 Convention of The Hague. It urged Member state and international organizations to put pressure on the Israeli Government to bring to allow the representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross and other humanitarian organization to visit the Lebanese detainees in Israeli prisons on a regular and periodical basis, submit report on their conditions and provide them with health care and humanitarian assistance.

Situation in Afghanistan

53. The Conference again emphasized the impossibility of resolving the Afghan problem by military means and called on the Afghan parties to the conflict to stop hostilities. It welcomed the initiative of His Excellency Syed Mohammed Khatami, President of the Islamic of Republic of Iran and Chairman of the Eighth Islamic Summit regarding Afghanistan. It called on the Afghan sides to show greater flexibility in the negotiations currently taking place within the framework of this initiative so as to help reach the desired solution which would be acceptable to all parties and spare the country further destruction. The Conference emphasized the importance of cooperation and coordination between the OIC and the United Nations in creating propitious conditions for achieving national reconciliation between the Afghan parties, and expressed readiness to guarantee the results reached by the Afghans within the framework of the Islamic initiative in cooperation with the United Nations.

54. The Conference called on all states to stop immediately supplying all parties in the conflict with arms and ammunitions. It also called on all Afghan citizens, and in particular Afghan farmers, to take effective measures to put an end to the production and export of illegal drugs and to refrain from growing them. The Conference called on the international community to support substitute programmes of agricultural crops.

55. The Conference urged Member States and Islamic Institutions to extend assistance to the Afghan refugees in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and in the Islamic Republic of Iran and called for efforts to ensure the prompt and voluntary return of this refugees to their country and their rehabilitation. The Conference also called on the international community, in particular the OIC Member States, to act generously towards meeting the humanitarian requirements in Afghanistan and stressed the urgent need to set a fund under the auspices of the Islamic Organization to help the Afghan people as a preliminary step towards the reconstruction and recovery of Afghanistan once stability is restored.

Situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

56. The Conference stressed the importance of economic recovery and its basic role in consolidating peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Conference, in accordance with the spirit of Sarajevo Declaration of Friendship and Partnership adopted by the meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina held in Sarajevo on 10th April 1996, and in view of the evaluation of the changing situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, endorsed the action programme for Bosnia and Herzegovina. The basic objectives of this programmes include continued contribution to the peace process in Bosnia and Herzegovina through the action of the Council for the implementation of the peace process and the steering committee, the search for new ways and means of bilateral cooperation between Member States and Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly in the field of trade, investment and culture, the provision of humanitarian towards the return of the refugees and the support of the action aimed at searching for the missing and carrying out mine-clearing operations. They also include the reconstruction of religious and cultural monuments, the implementation of the training and equipment program designed for the Federal Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina and legal support of the actions taken against war crimes and aggression and in particular the action of International Tribunal for War Crimes in Former Yugoslavia.

Jammu and Kashmir Dispute

57. The Conference reaffirmed its support for the right of the people of Kashmir to self-determination in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions, and called for appointing a special representative of the OIC Secretary General and for sending an OIC fact-finding mission to Jammu and Kashmir.

58. The Conference expressed its support for the initiative taken by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to resume negotiations with India with a view to resolving all the questions at the origin of the conflict, in particular the essential Kashmir question.

59. The Conference condemned flagrant violations of human rights of Kashmir, and called on Member States to take all necessary measures to convince India to put an immediate end to these violations and enable the people of Kashmir to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions.

60. The Conference expressed deep concern over the heavy Indian bombing across the Control Line which caused the death of civilians and material losses. It urged the international community including the United Nations, to mediate in the conflict which now threatens to lead to a nuclear confrontation.

61. The Conference adopted the recommendations made by the OIC Contact group on Jammu and Kashmir which held a meeting at ministerial level on the sidelines of this session; it also took cognizance of the memorandum submitted by the people of Kashmir to the Contact Group.

Situation in Chechnya

62. The Conference called on the Government of the Russian Federation to continue negotiation with the representatives of the Chechen people as soon as possible with a view to reaching a peaceful settlement of the situation in Chechnya, taking into consideration the appropriate international instruments on human rights. It also urged the Government of the Russian Federation and the international community to take action towards ensuring the protection of the Chechen refugees in the camps north of the Caucasus and to take part in the reconstruction and development of Chechnya. The Conference expressed its readiness to pursue contacts with the Government of the Russian Federation to facilitate the peaceful settlement of the crisis in Chechnya.

The situation in Kosovo

63. The Conference called on the United Nations to defend the right of Kosovars to self-determination and to protect their cultural heritage and Islamic identity. It reaffirmed that the safe and unconditional return of all Kosovar refugees to their homes is a necessary condition for settling the crisis. It called on the international community to take the necessary steps to track down and bring to trial all perpetrators of ethnic cleansing and other crimes against humanity in Kosovo.

64. The Conference asserted the readiness and determination of the OIC to participate in monitoring and peace keeping operations in Kosovo within the framework of international peace-keeping action under the auspices of the United Nations. It commended the efforts of both UNMIK and KFOR in pursuance of the objectives of Security Council resolution number 1244, as it commended the essential improvement of security in the area. It urged international presence in Kosovo to continue taking all the necessary security measures towards the requisite confidence-building, including the consolidation of tolerance and cooperation among ethnic groups for the protection and security of all categories of the people of Kosovo. It called on the international community to exert efforts to lay the necessary foundations for safeguarding the acquired rights of all minorities in Kosovo and enabling them to participate in administrative structures on an equal footing.

65. The Conference expressed appreciation for the humanitarian assistance extended by OIC Member States to Kosovo and exhorted them, along with other States in the world, to continue providing financial assistance for the reconstruction of Kosovo.

Situation in Somalia

66. The Conference reaffirmed its keenness on the restoration and preservation of the unity, sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Somalia. It expressed its support for the International Peace Conference for National Reconciliation in Somalia held in Djibouti on the first of May 2000, and attended by representatives of the civil society, traditional authorities, along with the concerned international and regional organizations. It launched on urgent appeal to the leaders of all Somali factions to participate in the peace process which began in Djibouti, and to place the higher interests of the Somali people above private interests, and to agree to the implementation of the decisions adopted by that conference. It called upon all Member States, especially neighbouring states, to cooperate in the implementation of the arms embargo in pursuance of Security Council resolution, No.733 (1992).

67. It requested the Secretary General to contribute effectively to the ongoing consultations about Somalia, through coordination with the other concerned international organizations. It also decided to set up a contact group, especially concerned with Somalia, to define a unified Islamic perspective on the Somali question and the role of the Organization in the ongoing search for peace within the framework of the Djibouti initiative in order to achieve national reconciliation in Somalia.

Consequences of the Iraqi aggression against the State of Kuwait

68. The Conference reaffirmed its endorsement of UN Security Council resolution No.949 calling on Iraq not to use again its military forces or any other forces in an aggressive or provocative manner to threaten its neighbours or the U.N. operations in Iraq.

69. It welcomed the Security Council resolution 1284 (1999) which calls on the government of Iraq to resume full and serious cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Tripartite Committee in Geneva which was established under its auspices with respect to the release of prisoners and detainees from among Kuwaiti military troops and civilians and others from third states, and the return of Kuwaiti properties. It also welcomed the appointment by the U.N. Secretary General of a high-level co-ordinator to follow up this issue. It also welcomed the final communiqué issued in this connection by the Supreme Council of the GCC in its 20th Session held in Riyadh on 29 Nov. 1999.

70. The Conference welcomed section A of Security Council Resolution No.1284, which approves the setting up of a United Nations Committee for Monitoring, Verification and Inspection replacing the Unscom which was established in accordance with, Para 9 (b) of Resolution 687 (1991); and called on Iraq to resume cooperation with the Security Council on this matter.

71. It reaffirmed respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Iraq and expressed its sympathy for the suffering of the Iraqi people. It also welcomed para C of security Council Resolution 1284 pertaining

to the humanitarian initiatives aimed at meeting the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people and alleviating its suffering.

The aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan.

72. The Conference has reiterated its full solidarity and support to the efforts undertaken by the Republic of Azerbaijan to help ensure immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of the Armenian forces from all the occupied Azerbaijani territories. It has also urged both Armenia and Azerbaijan and all the states in The Minsk Group of the OSCE to participate more effectively in the ongoing peace process to ensure a just, durable and comprehensive resolution of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan on the basis of principles of respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

American Aggression against Libya.

73. The Conference expressed once again its solidarity with Libya and support for the right of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to secure equitable compensation for the losses sustained as a result of the American aggression against it in 1986, in accordance with the provisions of UN General Assembly resolution No.38/41 of 20 November 1986. It called again on the United States of America to respond positively to that resolution and to resort to peaceful means to solve its differences with the Jamahiriya

Call for Lifting once for all the sanctions against Libya within the framework of a settlement of the so-called Lockerbie affair.

74. The Conference discussed the (Lockerbie) issue and the measures entailed by it. It reaffirmed its solidarity with the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, and welcomed the efforts of brotherly and friendly States to reach a settlement for this issue. It also expressed satisfaction at the steps taken towards its full settlement, including the suspension of the final and complete sanctions imposed on the Jamahiriya. It called on the Security Council to move quickly to the adoption of a resolution on a final and complete lifting of the sanctions imposed on Libya, considering that any delay or obstruction in this respect or any demands made in contravention of international law, before the verdict of the concerned Scottish Court entrusted with the case is unacceptable and would need the OIC Member States to take the necessary measures to deal with the situation. The Conference affirmed the right of Libya to demand reparations for the losses it suffered as a result of the sanctions imposed upon it.

Solidarity with Iran and the Jamahiriya regarding D'Amato Law

75. The Conference reaffirmed, once again, its solidarity with the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in their stand against the so-called D'Amato Law. It expressed its rejection of any coercive or unilateral measures, whether political or legal, on the part of one country against another. It urged all States to consider that law, which runs counter to the provisions of international law and norms, as null and void.

The Situation in Cyprus.

76. The Conference expressed firm support for the rightful cause of the Turkish Muslim people of Cyprus and reaffirmed its resolutions and declarations on Cyprus. It called for a just and negotiated settlement that would respect their legitimate aspirations. It emphasized the key importance of respecting the principle of equal political status in promoting a negotiated settlement acceptable to both the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot sides and to this effect called on the two sides to reciprocally acknowledge each other's equal status in order to pave the way to a lasting solution.

Comorian Island of Mayotte

77. The Conference reaffirmed the unity and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of the Comoros and its sovereignty over the Comorian Island of Mayotte, rejecting any idea of dividing the island; and it expressed its strong solidarity with the Comorian people, and its support for the Comorian Government in its political and diplomatic efforts to restore the island to its natural entity.

Eastern and Central Europe

78. The Conference reaffirmed once again the need to promote and strengthen ties of friendship and cooperation between the Islamic World and the Countries of Eastern and Central Europe. It expressed the hope that these States would work for the respect and enhancement of the Islamic identity of the Muslim communities and minorities living in their own countries, and for their right to use and practice their language, religion, and culture freely.

Security and Solidarity

79. The Conference reaffirmed the determination of OIC Member States to encourage the initiatives aimed at building confidence and security whenever and wherever appropriate at the bilateral or sub-regional levels. It reaffirmed once again the full and perennial sovereignty of Islamic peoples and States over their natural resources and economic activities, and the need to abide by the principles of international law concerning the sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of States, the non-use of force in international relations, and non-interference in the internal affairs of states. It expressed the resolve of Member States to protect and enhance Islamic values in every sphere of life, especially in the areas of solidarity and mutual respect. It affirmed its rejection of the so-called right to humanitarian intervention under whatever name or from whatever source, for it has no basis in the Charter of the United Nations or in the provisions of the principles of the general international law. It endorsed the report of the Fourth Session of the inter-governmental experts' group charged with the security of Islamic States and their solidarity and all the recommendations and proposals contained in it.

80. The Conference commended the blessed step taken by the two neighbouring Muslim States, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Yemen, by signing the sea and land-borders treaty in Jeddah, 12 June 2000. It considered this treaty as a model to imitate in resolving border conflicts between Member States amicably and peacefully and called upon all to follow the examples of these two countries in order to achieve peace and stability, and strengthen Islamic solidarity.

Disarmament

81. The Conference commended the efforts of H.E. President Abd Al-Aziz Bou Taflika, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria and Chairman of the OAU, towards the signing of a cease-fire agreement between Ethiopia and Eritrea on the 18th of June, 2000, in the Algerian capital. It expressed hope that this agreement would pave the way for a permanent resolution to the conflict between the two States.

82. The Conference reaffirmed once again the position of Member States, calling for a world free of weapons of mass destruction, notably nuclear weapons, and the significance of this for the security and safety of Islamic States. It called upon all states to adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and requested the nuclear states to meet the commitments they made in relevant international declarations and resolutions within the binding time frame. The Conference atfirmed the inalienable right of States to develop peaceful nuclear programmes for their economic and social development and to acquire the technology required for these programmes.

83. The Conference urged all states, especially the nuclear weapon States, once again, to exert pressure on Israel to join the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and called on the international community and the Security Council to compel Israel, which continues its secret nuclear programmes to abide by relevant U.N resolutions, and to implement forthwith the resolutions of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), calling for the subjection of all Israeli Atomic facilities to the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards System, as well as special resolution on the Middle East adopted by the conference on the Review and Extension of the Non-Proliferation Treaty respectively held in New York (1995, 2000) as these steps are necessary for the establishment of mass-destruction –weapon – free zone in the Middle East. The Conference noted that the establishment of a nuclear – weapon – free zone in Central Asia is one of the most important factors to consolidate the system of nuclear non-proliferation. It welcomed the agreement concerning the establishment of a nuclear weapon – free zone in Africa.

84. The Conference called on all Member States, including the Member States of the Conference on Disarmament, and more particularly the ones possessing nuclear weapons, to act forthwith and conclude an international binding treaty protecting the states not possessing nuclear weapons from the use of nuclear weapon, or from the threat to use them with a view to safeguarding the non-nuclear states sovereignty, the integrity of their territories and their political independence.

85. The Conference encouraged the states to conclude equitable and non-discriminatory agreements on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, considering that such agreements may contribute to the enhancement of confidence and the availability for development resources realizing, by the same token, the need to strengthen regional security and stability through the settlement of ongoing conflicts and to ensure a fair and balanced disarmament that should be reduced to the lowest possible level.

Dumping of Nuclear and Toxic Wastes

86. The Conference condemned all the entities that dump their own toxic wastes on the territories of the OIC Member States or in their territorial waters, and considered these practices as an abominable crime against the right of the Member States peoples and against mankind in general. The Conference also called on Member States to intensify efforts at the United Nations, and more particularly or the IAAE, to conclude a binding treaty for an irrevocable ban on the dumping of nuclear and toxic wastes.

Anti-Personnel Mines

87. The Conference expressed its deep concern over the consequences of the arbitrary use of anti-personnel mines on the security and safety of civilians, and their economic growth. It called on the states that have planted anti-personnel mines in the land, of the developing countries, among which the OIC Member States, to provide these countries with technical and financial assistance to enable them to rid themselves once of all of those mines.

Coordination and Consultation Among Member States

88. The Conference affirmed once again the need of Member States to continue the strengthening and promotion of cooperation, coordination, and consultation on every level so as to remove all causes of division and to strengthen understanding among them; and also the need for coordination to control the phenomenon of terrorism in all its shapes and forms.

The Creation of a World Fund for Solidarity and Combating Poverty

89. The Conference requested Member States to endorse the call addressed by H.E. the President of the Republic of Tunisia, to the leaders and heads of international organizations for the creation of a World Fund for Solidarity and Combating Poverty.

Solidarity with the Peoples of Sahel

90. The Conference expressed its appreciation of the Committee on Islamic Solidarity with the Peoples of the Sahel, for its initiatives in favour of the African States affected by drought and desertification and commended the contributions made by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the State of Kuwait, Indonesia, and the IDB for the benefit of the peoples of the Sahel, within the special OIC/CILSS/IDB joint Programme; it called on Member States to generously

contribute to the financing of this programme. It also approved the recommendations made by the donors meeting, and the creation of a high-level follow-up committee to speed up the implementation of the programme.

The Economic Situation in Africa

91. The Conference commended the efforts made by African countries towards economic recovery and development, including the establishment of the African Economic Community which aims at achieving gradual economic complementarity in Africa. It expressed appreciation of the Member States which have extended assistance to Africa through bilateral or multilateral channels, and also for the decision of the Kingdom of Morocco to write off the debts owed by a number of African countries, and called upon Member States to take similar initiatives. It also expressed appreciation for the initiatives taken at the European-African summit held in Cairo in April in 2000 concerning the alleviation or cancellation of debts owed by a large number of Islamic and African States. It called upon the world States and the concerned international monetary and financial institutions to take measures to alleviate the burden of external debt which hampers African recovery and development, to increase concessional financial flows to Africa, to reduce the impact on African economies of the fluctuations in those resource flows, and to assist Africa in implementing programmes of economic and structural reforms.

Reparations for Damages Resulting from Colonialism

92. The Conference affirmed again the right of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for reparations for all the material and human losses it has sustained as a result of the period of colonization and settlement on Libyan territories. It called on the countries responsible for these damages to respond positively to Libya's requests. It affirmed the right of all Member States which suffered from colonization to recover their cultural property plundered during that time.

Solidarity with Sudan

93. The Conference reaffirmed its full solidarity with Sudan in facing hostile designs, and in its right to defend its unity, territorial integrity and stability. It recommended the continuous efforts made by the Sudanese Government in order to reach a peaceful solution to the problem of Southern Sudan through negotiation and dialogue with the various Sudanese parties. It expressed its deep appreciation for the efforts of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya aimed at achieving national reconciliation in Sudan through the Egyptian – Libyan initiative.

Niger

94. The Conference urged Member States to extend to Niger financial and technical assistance to enable it to strengthen its national unity and to achieve the developmental plans and programmes contained in the three agreements regarding the consolidation of its national unity. It welcomed the efforts made

by Algeria and Burkina Faso towards the implementation of these agreements. It requested the OIC General Secretariat to establish contacts with the authorities of the Niger to assess the assistance received by Niger so far, and to evaluate the developmental projects planned to be implemented in the areas affected by the conflict.

Assisting the Republic of Mali:

95. The Conference called Member States and Islamic Institutions to provide the necessary financial assistance for the emergency programmes and projects drawn up by the Government of Mali to ensure the return and reintegration of refugees, achieve the social, cultural and economic development of the Northern Regions of Mali, and support the implementation of the medium and long-term development strategy, and the emergency programme in the Kidala, Gao and Timbuctu regions.

The Right to use Science and Technology:

96. The Conference reaffirmed the inalienable right of Islamic States to acquire, use, and develop scientific and technological means to achieve their social, economic, and cultural development. It urged industrial countries to facilitate the transfer of technology to developing countries and to lift all obstacles that impede this transfer particularly. It requested Member States to strengthen cooperation among them in scientific and technological spheres for peaceful purposes, especially within the framework of the Standing Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH).

The Impact of the Development of Information and Communication Technology on the Sovereignty of States:

97. The Conference agreed on the necessity to consolidate and develop the use of media and communication technology so that it may in turn reflect the needs of the Islamic world in the social, cultural, economic and political fields, as it agreed on the necessity to prevent the negative impact of the technology on the sovereignty of States.

The Problem of Refugees in the Islamic World:

98. The Conference expressed its deep concern on the consequences of the presence of refugees in Islamic States, especially in respect to the security, stability and the infrastructures of these States, and the negative impact of their presence on their economic and social development. It called on member States to cooperate with the Untied Nations High Commission for Refugees to stop the decrease in assistance to refugees, and find additional resources to alleviate the suffering of refugees in Islamic States. It condemned all repressive measures against refugees, including armed attacks on their camps and the pressures exerted on host countries.

Assistance to the Republic of Sudan to help it shelter Refugees and Displaced Persons:

99. The Conference commended the great efforts exerted by the Sudanese Government to protect, shelter and host displaced persons and refugees, and to take care of them and facilitate their voluntary repatriation. It called on Member States and Islamic philanthropic and voluntary organization and civil society associations and citizens to extend financial and material assistance and provide the necessary emergency services to the already existing refugees in Sudan, and to the huge number of Eritrean refugees who have entered Eastern Sudan recently. It urged international donors to extend assistance commensurate with the number of refugees, and to effectively contribute to the programme of their voluntary repatriation and resettlement. It re-invited the Islamic Development Bank again to extend financial assistance so as to support the efforts of the Government of Sudan to resettle returning Sudanese refugees in the areas liberated from the hold of the rebellious movement as well as to provide shelter to the displaced persons who migrated to the North due to the military operations conducted by the rebellious movement.

Assistance to the Republic of Guinea:

100. The Conference called on the Member States, and Islamic Foundations and other International orgtanzations to provide financial assistance to the Government of the Republic of Guinea to enable it to host and shelter refugees and displaced persons, and facilitate their voluntary repatriation to ensure Guinea's stability and development.

The Year 2005 Conference to Review the Non-Proliferation Treaty:

101. The Conference requested on all Member States parties to Nuclear Weapons Non-Proliferation Treaty to actively participate in the Year 2005 Conference to Review the Nuclear Weapons Non-Proliferation Treaty and its preparatory committees in order to achieve the objective of nuclear disarmament.

Support for the Initiative of Kazakhstan to hold a Conference for Confidence-Building in Asia.

102. The Conference expressed appreciation at the initiative of the government of the Republic of Kazakhstan which led to convening the Conference for interaction and confidence-building measures in Asia, in Alma Ata in Kazakhstan on 14 September 1999, and the member state's support for this initiative. It reaffirmed that OIC member States do not consider Israel as a member of Asian Countries Group, and requested that it be excluded from attending the future meetings of this Conference.

UN Reform:

103. The Conference affirmed the need to meet the direct and vital interest of Member States in the reform and restructuring of the United Nations, including the expansion of the Security Council membership. It reaffirmed the readiness of the

OIC Member States to contribute actively and constructively to the consideration of the reform and expansion of the Security Council on the basis of relevant declarations and communiqués issued by this Organization.

The Political Situation in the Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros:

104. The Conference expressed deep concern over the separatist situation in the Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros. It called on all parties concerned to implement the agreement reached in the Antananarivo (capital of Madagascar) Conference on national reconciliation. It reaffirmed its rejection of any act aimed at destroying the unity of the Comoro people or encouraging the separatist movement in Anjouan. It called on the international community to support the Comoro people and its government through the initiatives and good offices of the Organization of African Unity and the League of Arab States in their bid to reach an early solution to the crisis. It urged Member States and Islamic Organizations to extend technical, financial and security assistance to the Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros.

The Imposition of Unilateral Economic Sanctions on Sudan:

105. The Conference requested the United States to lift the economic sanctions imposed on Sudan, in view of their harmful effects on that country incurred at economic and social level, and because they contradict the principles of international and the UN Charter which prohibits interference in the internal affairs of other states.

Unilateral Economic Sanctions in General:

106. The Conference called on all States which imposed unilateral sanctions on OIC Member States to refrain from such practices, for these measures in contradiction with the principles of international law and the UN Charter. It expressed solidarity with the States that face unilateral economic sanctions, and urged Member States to extend support to them.

The Political Situation in Sierra Leone:

107. The Conference expressed appreciation to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the UN, the OAU and the governments that have contributed to the restoration of constitutional order in Sierra Leone, and to alleviating the deterioration of security in this country. It commended the setting up of a new UN Mission to Sierra Leone with a revised mandate. It strongly condemned the rebel Unity Revolutionary Front's frequent and unjustified attacks on UN officials, foreign journalists and unarmed civilians. It requested all Member States to contribute to confidence-building between the government and the signatories of the Lome Agreement, and provide generous assistance to Sierra Leone to help it face the refugees problem, and to achieve rehabilitation and reconstruction of the country to remedy the destruction and waste caused by the civil war. The Conference agreed to set up a contact group on Sierra Leone and took note of the proposal that it should comprise Malaysia, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the State of Kuwait, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Arab Republic of

Egypt, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Republic of Guinea and the Republic of Sierra Leone.

US Attack on the Al-Shifa Pharmaceutical Plant in Khartum:

108. The Conference expressed its full support for the request of the Republic of Sudan to form an international committee of inquiry under the supervision of the Security Council to investigate the United States' allegations that the Al-Shifa Pharmaceutical Plant produces toxic chemical gases. It requested the US government again to respond positively to the request of Sudan. It reiterated full solidarity with Sudan in countering hostile schemes against its security and national unity.

Combating the Illicit Proliferation and Circulation of light weapons and small-calibre Arms:

109. The Conference welcomed the initiate of the Republic of Mali in this respect, and expressed support to a regional African Conference on the illicit proliferation of light weapons and small calibre arms by the OAU for November 2000, in Bamaku. It called on Member States and Islamic Organizations to consolidate cooperation among them to combat illicit these in light weapons.

110. The Conference welcomed the initiative taken by the European Union for setting up a mechanism to combat and control the accumulation and illicit circumstances of light weapons and small caliber arms. It called on the Secretary General to examine the ways and means to secure effective coordination between the OIC, the UN, the European Union, the OAU, the ECOWAS, and the regional organizations concerned in this issue.

Protection of the Rights of Muslim Communities and Minorities in Non-Member States:

111. The Conference expressed satisfaction at the efforts exerted by Secretary General to implement the resolutions on Muslim communities and minorities in Non-Member States, particularly those concerning the setting up of contact group from among Member States delegations at the UN in New York and Geneva to deal with cases of violation of the rights of Muslim communities and minorities in Non-Member States.

112. The Conference stressed the need to help Muslim communities and minorities in non--Member States to preserve their religious and cultural identity and enjoy equal treatment in terms of rights, obligations and duties, and exercise their civil, religious and other rights without segregation or discrimination.

113. The Conference stressed that safeguarding the rights of the Muslim communities and minorities in non-Member States is fundamentally, the responsibility of the governments of those states, based on commitment to the principles of international law and respect of territorial sovereignty.

114. The conference urged Member States to give special attention to the Muslim

communities and minorities in non-Member States that are subjected to oppression or persecution because of their religious beliefs, to identify their needs and to advise member States thereof with a view to providing the necessary financial, human and material resources, while working to intensify the various Islamic cultural and educational activities so as to improve the general conditions of these minorities.

115. The Conference urged member States to coordinate efforts to train the personnel capable of fulfilling the task of Islamic Dawa within Muslim communities and minorities in different countries. This personnel is to include qualified female staff and a set of integrated material and programmes designed for the purpose is to be drawn up.

116. The Conference requested the General Secretariat to make contacts with the governments of states with Muslim communities and minorities to identify the latter's problems and needs and the former's views on the best way to set up a formula for cooperation with the OIC in order to provide the contributions required to improve the conditions of these Muslim communities and minorities and preserve their religious and cultural identity. Priority should be given to contacts with the governments of non-Member States where Muslim communities and minorities face urgent problems.

117. The Conference stressed the commitment of Member States to respecting the rights of non-Muslim communities and minorities living on their territory in accordance with the precepts of our tolerant Islamic religion. The Conference denounced the allegations by certain circles of the treatment of minorities as well as the use of measures concerning them as a pretext to interfere in the internal affairs of Member States.

The Cause of Muslims in Southern Philippines

118. The Conference approved the recommendations of this Session's fringe meeting of the Ministerial Committee of Six on the follow-up of the 1996 Peace Agreement between the Moro National Liberation Front and the Government of the Philippines, which was attended by His Excellency Professor Nur Miswari, Chairman of the Front, and a representative of the Government of the Philippines. In particular, the Conference adopted the recommendation to send a fact-finding mission of this Ministerial-level Committee to Southern Philippines. The Conference, having expressed appreciation at what was achieved towards a full implementation of the Peace Agreement, called on the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Moro National Liberation Front to cease hostilities and to safeguard the benefits of the agreement, particularly the restoration of peace to the South of the country, and called for providing adequate guarantees for that purpose. The Conference took note of the recommendation of the afore-mentioned Islamic committee to include Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam as new members of that committee.

119. The Conference also called on all parties concerned to continue to provide the necessary assistance to ensure the full implementation of the Peace Agreement

during the transition period pending the establishment of the autonomous region in Southern Philippines.

The Situation of the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace

120. The Conference, keeping in mind that the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace is an integral part of the Muslim World, deplored the harassment and imprisonment of the elected Mufti of Xanthi, Mr. Mehmet Emin Aga, and expressed its concern at the obstruction of the building of Kimmeria Mosque. The Conference urged Greece to take all measures to restore the rights of the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace and recognize promptly the elected Muftis of Xanthi and Komotini as the official Muftis.

The Muslim Minority in Myanmar

121. The Conference of the Islamic Contact Group entrusted with Considering the Conditions of Muslim Communities and Minorities to follow-up the violations of the rights of the Muslim minority in Myanmar, and urged Member States to provide moral and political support to this minority and to facilitate dialogue between that community and its government so that it may on an equal footing with other citizens of Myanmar.

LEGAL AFFAIRS:

122. The Conference urged OIC Member States that have not ratified the Statute of the International Islamic Court of Justice to do so by completing the ratification procedure in order to enable the Court to fulfill its functions.

123. The Conference recognized the need to follow up the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam and called again on the Inter-governmental Group of Experts on this issue to start drawing up Islamic Conventions on Human Rights in the form of covenants each of which tackles in detail one or more issues based on the provisions of the Declaration.

124. The Conference called on Member States to continue their positive coordination and existing cooperation in the field of human rights, especially during international conferences and meetings on this issue, in order to reinforce Islamic solidarity and face any attempt at using human rights as a means to exercise political pressure on any Member State and to convey the positions of the Organization on the issue of human rights, including the rights of Muslim minority, to the concerned organs and agencies of the United Nations.

125. The conference expressed its deep concern over the repeated and wrongful linkage between Islam and human right violations, and over the use of the written and audiovisual media to propagate such wrongful concepts. It called for an end to the unjustifiable campaigns waged by certain non-governmental organizations against a number of Member States to demand the abolition of Sharia laws and sanctions in the name of protecting human beings, stressing the right of states to hold fast onto their religious, social, and cultural specificities, which constitute their heritage and spring source for the enrichment of common universal

conceptions of human rights. It called for the universality of human rights not to be used as a pretext to intervene in the internal affairs of states and undermine their national sovereignty.

126. The Conference urged Member States again to proceed as soon as possible, with the signing/ratification of the different agreements concluded under the aegis of the OIC.

127. The Conference expressed again its support for the convening of a conference under the aegis of the United Nations to define the concept of terrorism and make a distinction between terrorism and people's struggle for national liberation.

128. The Conference reaffirmed the determination of Member States to abide by the provisions of the OIC Treaty on Combating International Terrorism, and to coordinate their efforts to combat all forms and manifestations of terrorism, including state terrorism.

129. The Conference condemned all forms of international terrorism, including the crimes of hijacking and illegal acts against the safety and security of civilian aircraft. It called on Member States to ratify expeditiously international agreements on the Penalty for Hijacking and on Guaranteeing Civilian Aircraft Safety and Security.

130. The Conference approved the Rules and Procedures for Full Membership of the OIC which had been prepared by the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on the issue.

131. The Conference reaffirmed the decision of Member States to contribute to the final outcome of the International conference on Fighting Racism, Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance by putting forward the Islamic view on fighting racism, the distortion of the image of Islam and Islamophobia. The Conference commissioned the OIC Action Group on Human Rights in Geneva to draw up the paper for this participation.

132. The Conference approved the efforts exerted by Member States during the meeting of the United Nations high Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, leading to a unified position of the Member States on issues of immediate concern to them and on confronting the distortion of the image of Islam as provided for by the Draft Resolution on the Distortion of the Image of Religions.

133. The Conference decided on an exceptional basis to accept the application of the Parliamentary Union of OIC Member States to have observer status at the OIC.

Information and Communication.

134. The Conference commended the valuable efforts exerted by His Excellency, President Abdou Diouf, former President of Senegal and Chairman of the Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC), in the context of promotion of Joint Islamic Action in the field of Culture and Information. The Conference also commended His Excellency President Abdulah

Wade President of Senegal for assuming the Chairmanship of COMIAC and inviting its Sixth Session to be held in Dakar, on 25-26 October, 2000.

135. The Conference took note, with satisfaction, of the efforts of the Senegalese Ministry of Communication in implementing the programme of Joint Islamic Action in the field of Information while chairing the Fourth Islamic Conference of Information Ministers. The Conference also commended the Chairmanship by the Ministry of Culture and National Guidance of the Islamic Republic of Iran, of the Fifth Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers (ICIM) as well as its valuable initiatives in this respect.

136. The Conference also took note, with satisfaction of the measures proposed by the Secretary General to revitalize the information and communication sector so that it can play its real role in promoting the just causes and true image of Islam, and in implementing the relevant plans drawn up by the COMIAC.

137. The Conference welcomed the modernization of the implementing mechanisms of the Information Strategy of Islamic States and stressed the need to continue to work out the priorities of the Information Plan of Islamic States and activate the Islamic Programme for the Development of Information and Communication (PIDIC) so as to consolidate Joint Islamic Action.

138. The Conference called on Member States to mobilize all necessary material means, and particularly voluntary financial contributions, with a view to overcoming the dilemma of the lack of funds and proceeding with the implementation of the work programmes set out in the Information Plan of Member States in such a way as to allow them to keep abreast of developments in communication technology and enable them at the same time to meet the challenges and demands of this age.

139. The Conference urged Member States to support the Islamic satellite channels on mutual basis through an effective exchange of programmes, expertise and technologies. It reaffirmed the need for Member States to activate the work of the International Islamic News Agency (IINA) and the Islamic Broadcasting Organization (ISBO), so that they can attain their objectives in the service of common Islamic information.

140. The Conference stressed the need to energize the Islamic Forum of Radio and Television Producers which was established under a resolution of the Fifth Islamic Conference of Information Ministers (ICIM) which also decided to hold its first session in Tehran in September 2000. This should provide greater opportunities for the exposure of productions by specialized information institution in the Islamic States, and for the exchange of programmes and audio-visual materials among these information of radio and television institutions.

141. The Conference took note, with great satisfaction, of the creation of an Internet Website for the General Secretariat of the OIC, now operating regularly at the following Internet address: **http://www.oic-oci.org** The Conference stressed the need for continued efforts to support this achievement, develop its

contents, provide greater publicity for the OIC and its various institutions and highlight the meanings of joint Islamic cooperation.

142. The Conference welcomed the publication of six consecutive issues of "Al-Mutamar" magazine containing ample information on the activities of the Secretary General and OIC affiliated institutions and stressed the need to enhance this achievement in the future.

Economic Affairs.

143. The Conference stressed the need to take effective measures to alleviate the negative impact of the international economic order on the economies of Member States in order to guarantee their sharing, on an equal footing, the benefits of globalization in such measure as would strike a balance between the advantages and responsibilities of the developing countries.

144. The Conference stressed the need to face up to the challenges of globalization through the full participation of developing countries and of those whose economies are in transition, in the international decision-making process concerning economic and financial policies, and to reverse the trend to marginalize developing countries and those whose economies are in transition.

145. The Conference welcomed the initiative of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to hold an international conference in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the link between the transfer of technology and globalization with special emphasis on the economic, technical and scientific fields to enable the economies of developing countries, including OIC Member States to keep up with and benefit from the quickening pace of economic globalization.

146. The Conference noted that the liberalization of trade has not been beneficial to the developing countries, and highlighted the need for confidence building in the multilateral trade exchange system by encouraging the participation of all developing countries. The Conference called for a greater liberalization of trade through the creation of more opportunities for trading in basic commodities and services so as to ensure greater access to markets where Islamic countries have a relative advantage and ensuring for the latter access to technology on favourable terms.

147. The Conference also emphasized the principle of opening up membership of WTO to all, and called for speeding up the procedure for joining that organization without any condition or restriction.

148. The Conference reaffirmed the need to hasten to take practical steps to reinforce economic cooperation among OIC Member States, particularly in the areas of trade, investment, and stock markets and technology, so as to achieve the ultimate objective of establishing a common Islamic market or any other form of economic complimentarity.

149. The Conference stressed once again that the trend prevailing in developed countries to link issues unrelated to trade such as labour criteria and the

environment, with trade transactions, stressing the fact that such a trend was likely to thwart the efforts designed to set the proper climate for multilateral trade exchange founded on justice, liberalization and fairness. The Conference also called on the WTO to refrain from including such issues in its work programme.

150. The Conference called on developed countries that have not increased their official development assistance to do so in order to be consistent with the current international development strategy, and to follow the example of countries that have released the Least Developed Countries from refunding the debts to which they were entitled.

151. The Conference launched an appeal to developed countries to implement the '90s Action Plan for the Least Developed and Land-locked Countries as well as the other resolutions adopted by the United Nations, particularly IX UNCTAD, and the recommendations made in the report of the High-Level Meeting on integrated initiatives concerning the implementation of the 1997 Action Plan for the Least-Developed Countries of the WTO.

152. The Conference further welcomed the UN decision to convene the Third United Nations Conference on Least-Developed Countries in the Year 2001. It called on all governments, governmental and multilateral institutions to take appropriate measures to prepare for the said conference.

153. The Conference renewed its call to the developed countries, to offer substantial reductions of the debts of African countries, including OIC Member States, and the alleviation of the debt service charges, while ensuring that this process is combined with a new and adequate capital flow to African countries with concessional terms and conditions.

154. The Conference stressed the need to make substantial reductions in the debts of the Least Developed Countries through measures to lessen debt burden and especially to observe flexibility in applying the eligibility criteria for benefiting from the initiative to assist Poor Debt-burdened Countries, so as to enable all the Least Developed Countries to meet the conditions set for that purpose, and called for the early implementation of the initiative in order to allow more eligible countries to benefit from it.

155. The Conference welcomed the extension of the time limit for the international initiative concerning the debt-burdened poor countries to the year 2000 to enable the most eligible countries to clarify their position. It noted, with concern, that only nine countries were so far able to make their position clear.

156. The Conference urged the international community to broaden the scope of the assistance given to the Member States affected by drought and natural disasters. It called upon OIC Member States, organs and institutions to extend urgent assistance to the OIC Member States which are members of Inter-Governmental Agency for Development (IGAD), and the Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS).

157. The Conference stressed the need to urgently implement the Strategy and the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among Member States within the framework of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC), in accordance with the principles and operational modalities of the strategy and the procedure set forth in the chapter on follow-up and implementation.

158. The Conference called upon Member States to participate in the various schemes recently launched by the Islamic Development Bank and to benefit from them, including the Longer Term Trade Financing Scheme, Islamic Banks Portfolio, IDB Investment Fund Unit, and the Islamic Corporation for Insurance of Investment and Export Credit.

159. The Conference invited all concerned bodies to broaden the scope of their assistance to help the Palestinian people build their national economy, consolidate their national institutions and enable them to establish their independent state with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

160. The Conference elected the following Member States of the Board of Directors of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade, Casablanca, as follows:

- *Kingdom of Morocco*
- *Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*
- *Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya*
- *State of Kuwait*
- *Malaysia*
- *Federal Republic of Nigeria*
- *People's Republic of Bangladesh*
- *Republic of Turkey*
- *Republic of Sudan.*

The Conference also elected the following Member States of the Board of Directors of the Statistical, economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries, Ankara, as follows:

- *Republic of Turkey*
- *Kingtdom of Saudi Arabia*
- *People's Republic of Bangladesh*
- *State of Kuwait*
- *United Arab Emirates*
- *Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya*
- *Kingdom of Morocco*
- *Sultanate of Oman*
- *Republic of Yemen*

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:

161. The Conference stressed the need for taking effective measures to counter the destructive damages ensuing from pollution and poisonous waste which give rise to climatic fluctuations and cause the deterioration of biological and socio-

economic conditions. In this respect, the Conference emphasized that environmental considerations must be tied to development efforts, called on Member States to ratify the relevant international conventions if they have not already done so, and strongly condemned Israeli practices and their impact on the environment in the occupied Palestinian territories, the occupied Syrian Golan, Southern Lebanon, the Western Bekaa Valley, and other territories occupied by Israel.

162. In the area of combating epidemic diseases, the Conference urged the strengthening of co-operation among Member States, and emphasized the urgent necessity of convening the Islamic Conference for Health Ministers, which the Islamic Republic of Iran, has so gracefully offered to host in Tehran. The Conference decided to expand the mandate of this Conference to cover Islamic co-operation in the area of health generally, including the sector of medicines.

163. The Conference expressed its concern at the exacerbation of the problem of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and their adverse effects on the society and economy of the countries affected by this plague. The Conference called for strict implementation of the UN Convention on Illegal Trafficking of Drugs, provided this goes hand in hand with efforts at Member States level to raise awareness of this problem with an appropriate use of cultural and mass media to that end. The Conference lauded the effective ongoing co-operation in this respect between the General Secretariat and the International Programme of Drug Control.

164. The Conference stressed the vital role of science and technology in the socio-economic development of Member States. It reaffirmed that science and technology must be harnessed for peaceful purposes for the good of humanity and for a reinforcement of the socio-economic development of Member States. In this same context, it called for the initiation of negotiations with the participation of the countries concerned to lay down universal non-discriminatory guidelines on the transfer of advanced technology and the transfer of machinery and equipment of a military application. It referred to new advances in the fields of science and technology and particularly to the possible uses of space technologies for development purposes and urged the follow-up of current activities in the United Nations regarding these new advances.

165. The Conference noted the importance of the project for conducting an extensive study on the correlation between the environment and health and the sustainable development of Member States, as well as the need for the urgent convening of a meeting of the Expert Group charged with conducting this study.

166. The Conference took note of the programmes and activities of COMSTECH and called on Member States to provide these pogrammes and activities with financial support in the form of generous voluntary contributions.

167. With regard to the implementation of developmental strategies in the fields of science and technology in Member States, the Conference commended the positive efforts exerted by ISESCO in collaboration with UNESCO, in making preparations for the World Science Conference held in Hungary in June 1999. It

also commended the generous offer of the Government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to host the First Islamic Conference of Ministers in charge of Science, Higher Education and Scientific Research, from 15 to 18 October, 2000 in Riyadh.

168. The Conference highlighted the activities of the Islamic Institute of Technology in Dhaka and exhorted it to continue its efforts in motivating the human resources that the Member States may need in the fields of science and technology.

169. The Conference elected the following Member States of the Board of Directors of the Islamic Institute of Technology in Dhaka as follows: Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Malaysia, Nigeria, United Arab Emirates, Iran, Pakistan and Egypt.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS:

170. The Conference expressed its satisfaction at ISESCO's supervision of educational and cultural aspects of the education process in the Islamic University in Uganda, its review of the administrative and academic structure of that University, and its development of appropriate educational curricula thereof.

171. The Conference mandated the Secretary General to take the necessary measures in co-ordination with the competent authorities in Chad, Mali and Guinea-Bissau in order to update the information available at the Islamic institutes and centers in the aforementioned countries.

172. The Conference called on Member States to incorporate the objectives of the Cultural Strategy of the Islamic World into their cultural plans according to their national policies and to give cultural action the place it deserves within their social and economic development plans.

173. The Conference expressed its appreciation to His Excellency Sayed Mohammad Khatami, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Chairman of the Eighth Summit Conference, for His Excellency's initiative in proposing that the OIC call for a dialogue among civilizations. The Conference also expressed its satisfaction at the adoption of the draft of "The Universal Declaration on Dialogue Among Civilizations" issued by the Inter-governmental Group of Experts in its meeting held in Jeddah in February 2000.

174. The Conference urged the early convening of the Islamic Conference of Ministers in charge of the Child and Social Affairs. It charged the Secretary General with holding the necessary consultations in this regard with Member States, particularly those having distinguished experiences in this field.

175. The Conference urged Member States to follow up their efforts in instilling traditional Islamic values in young people and conducting more cultural activities for their benefit. It stressed the urgent need to convene the Islamic Conference of Youth Ministers in Riyadh as soon as possible. It called on the Government of Kuwait to prepare a comprehensive strategy to promote and develop Islamic

Waqfs and activate their role in the development of Islamic societies, and to submit this draft strategy to the Twenty-eighth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

176. The Conference expressed its appreciation of the various activities sponsored by IRCICA to raise awareness in world public opinion of the Islamic cultural heritage in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as its efforts to maintain and safeguard this heritage.

177. The Conference expressed its appreciation of the United Arab Emirates and Member States who have made generous donations to the Islamic Solidarity and its Waqfs. It called on all Member States to make annual donations to the Fund and to contribute to the capital of the Fund's Waqf.

178. The Conference expressed its pride in the distinguished role assumed by ISESCO in the international arena through the establishment of cooperative relationships with analogous international and regional organizations, which have led to the implementation of hundreds of joint programmes thereby widening the scope of ISESCO's work and strengthening its contribution to the cultural affirmation of the Islamic Ummah and its place in the international arena.

179. The Conference also expressed its satisfaction at the activities undertaken by the Islamic Committee of the International Crescent in humanitarian and social areas, and expressed the hope that Member States that have not yet ratified the Committee's Agreement should urgently do so.

180. The Conference approved the formation of the Board of Directors of the Research Centre on Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA), Istanbul, as follows:

Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Kuwait, Jordan, Qatar, Pakistan, Nigeria and Syria.

181. The Conference stressed the importance of consolidating Islamic solidarity, unifying efforts to defend all Islamic causes, taking all necessary steps to implement the Strategy of Joint Islamic Action in the field of Da'wa, and incorporating them into the national policies of Member States in all fields, as the proper methodology for guiding joint Islamic action.

182. The Conference took cognizance of the report of the Chairman of the Permanent Council of the Islamic Solidarity Fund on the Activities and Waqf of the Fund. The Conference expressed its appreciation to the Member States that have made generous donations to the Islamic Solidarity Fund and its Waqf. The Conference requested all Member States to undertake to make annual, voluntary contributions to the annual budget of the Fund and the capital of its Waqf.

183. The Conference elected the following States as Member States of the Thirteenth Council of the ISF:

Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Jamahiriya, Kuwait, Jordan, Morocco, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Pakistan Egypt, Qatar, Turkey and Palestine.

Administrative and Financial Affairs.

184. The Conference approved the budget of the General Secretariat and its subsidiary organs for the financial year beginning as of July 1, 2000 with the same ceiling as that of previous years.

185. The Conference commended the unprecedented positive results achieved by the General Secretariat, as checked by the Finance Control Organ, with respect to rationalizing expenditure, complying with the Financial and Administrative Rules and Regulations, respecting the budgetary ceiling in all its chapters, and effecting savings in some budgetary items, all of which have a positive impact on increasing the confidence of Member States in the General Secretariat and thus creating favourable conditions for the implementation of several of the latter's programmes and activities.

186. The Conference took note with satisfaction of the drop in the ceiling of Member States' debts to the budget of the General Secretariat, and urged Member States that have not paid their accumulated arrears to the General Secretariat and Subsidiary Organs and those that are late in settling their annual mandatory contributions to these budgets to hasten to do their duty in that respect in the spirit of Islamic solidarity and share effectively and genuinely in supporting joint Islamic action so as to avoid a repeat occurrence of the financial crises threatening the Organization.

187. The Conference decided to merge the International Commission for the Preservation of the Islamic Cultural Heritage, Istanbul, and the Research Centre for History, Art and Culture, Istanbul, (IRCICA).

188. The Conference approved the amendment of a number of provisions of the Staff Rules and Regulations that had been proposed by the Secretary General to enhance the performance of the General Secretariat, tighten the control over expenditure and rationalize it.

189. The Conference approved that measures be applied to these Sates that have not settled their annual mandatory contributions to the budgets of the General Secretariat and its Subsidiary Organs.

190. The Conference elected the following States as Member States of the FCO for two years as follows:

Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Libya, Sudan, Pakistan, Malaysia, Nigeria and Burkina Faso.

THE CLOSING SESSION:

WORD OF THANKS BY REPRESENTATIVES OF REGIONAL GROUPS

191. Dr. Momodou Lamin Sidat Jobe, Foreign Minister of the Gambia, on behalf of the African Group, His Excellency Dr. Kamal Kharrazi, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the Asian Group and His Excellency Ambassador Mushtaq bin Abdullah bin Jaafar Al-Saleh, on behalf of the Arab Group, expressed their sincere thanks to His Excellency Datuk Seri Hamid Albar, Foreign Minister of Malaysia and Chairman o the 27th ICFM, for the generous hospitality extended to the participating delegations and for the arrangements and facilities put at their disposal. They expressed to His Excellency their warm congratulations on his wise and competent steering of the proceedings of the Conference.,

MESSAGE OF THANKS TO H.E. DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA.

192. The Conference decided to send a cable of thanks to His Excellency Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia for his gracious hosting of the Conference and for the contribution of Malaysia to bolstering the work of the OIC and its keenness to develop its mechanisms.

193. On behalf of all the participants in the Conference, H.E. Dr. Azeddine Laraki, OIC Secretary General, addressed a message of thanks and gratitude to H.E. Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia, for kindly hosting the Conference and for his key-note speech which greatly contributed to inspire the Conference with the most effective methods and the most appropriate resolutions to make headway towards fulfilling the aspirations of Islamic societies.

CLOSING SPEECH

194. In his closing speech, His Excellency Datuk Seri Hamid Al-Bar, Foreign Minister of Malaysia and Chairman of the Twenty-seventh Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, commended the spirit of Islamic solidarity and brotherhood which inspired Their Excellencies the Ministers and Heads of participating delegations and played a great part in the adoption of this Session's resolutions.

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
27 Rabiul Awal 1421 H
30 June 2000

Appendix

In the name of God the most Merciful, the most compassionate

" Glory to (God) who did take His servant for a journey by night from the Sacred Mosque to the Farthest Mosque whose precincts we did bless in order that We might show him some of Our Signs: for he is the One who heareth And Seeth (all things)" *(Al-Isra)*

Al-QUDS ASHAREEF APPEAL

The conference of the Foreign Ministers of the Islamic Countries, held in Malaysia, confirm that:

- Achieving a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, has been one of the firm main objectives of the Islamic Countries.

- The establishment of the Independent Palestinian State, with Al-Quds as its capital, and the implementation of all the international resolutions regarding the Palestinian cause, are the basic guarantee to set up this peace and strengthen it.

- The Islamic countries re-confirm that Al-Quds Ashareef, is the political and historical capital of the Palestinian people and the Palestinian State. It is the meeting-place of religions, the three heavenly religions and the center of co-existence among civilizations and cultures, which is part and parcel of the Palestinian lands occupied in 1967. It is the first of the two Qiblas and the third among the three holy mosque, the places of the nocturnal journey of prophet Mohamed, *peace be upon him* and the cradle of our lord Jesus Christ, *peace be upon him*. Consequently, all actions of settlement and occupational activities in Jerusalem and all other Palestinian occupied territories should be terminated according to the international legitimacy and its resolutions which prohibit any amendment or change on the demographical constructional, heritage and cultural reality of this holy city.

- The Holy Quds which has been the city of peace through all historical eras must remain as it is to the Islamic World and to all people of the world who love the just peace. To Muslims, particularly, the heritage of the Omary concordat between Omar Bin Al Khattab and the Christian patriarch Sofranius remains the ethical and cultural base to deal with the issue of Al-Quds Ashareef at present and in the future.

- The conference of the Foreign Ministers of the Islamic Countries held in Malaysia re-affirms this principal positions and appeals to all countries of the world including the sponsors of the peace process, U.S.A and Russia and the European Union, China, Japan, the Non Aligned Countries and the United Nations to work on this base in their endeavor to realize a just and durable peace in the Middle East.